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Maricopa County Adopts 5 Measures To Cut Particulate Pollution

(Phoenix) – The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors today adopted a resolution for additional measures to meet federal Clean Air Act requirements and protect human health for particulates. Maricopa County is currently classified as a “serious” non-attainment area for PM-10 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Board of Supervisors’ Chairman Fulton Brock said, “EPA expressed that the initial 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 relied too heavily on one control measure to meet emissions reduction needed for attainment in 2006. We now believe we have a more balanced approach for dust control.”

To address EPA concerns, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following revised measures:

- Paving unpaved roads,
- Paving or stabilizing unpaved shoulders,
- Enhanced enforcement of Rule 310 for dust control at construction sites, vacant lots and unpaved roads,
- Use of PM-10 efficient street sweepers, and
- Revised charbroiler rule development schedule.

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) maintains nearly 800 miles of unpaved roads in the county. Of those 800 miles, traffic counts identified approximately 60 miles as roads (or portions of roads) that meet the federally mandated pollution control guidelines for paving for dust control. A MCDOT steering committee is actively setting up the process to identify the roads to be paved, establishing standards, pursuing funding options, and creating a schedule for the paving projects.

“With the additional control measures and education, we should continue to see a decline in the number of exceedance days for PM-10,” said Brock.

Since January 1, 1998, Maricopa County has had four PM-10 exceedance days each year, as compared to 12 in 1997.